

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of August 3, 2006, in which claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strahs, U.S. Patent No. 4,550,829. By this Amendment, the two independent claims in the application, claims 1 and 5, have been amended to overcome the prior art. These claims, and hence their depending claims, are now allowable.

Independent claims 1 and 5, as now amended, recite a clip for securing a handle with a threaded end connector to a broom head with a longitudinal axis, the clip comprising a clip body and means to attach the body to the broom head. The clip also comprises a handle and connector support with a curvilinear front surface of given dimensional thickness and an interior surface of given dimensional length extending from the front surface, the dimensional length of the interior surface being greater than the dimensional thickness of the front surface, and at least one thread within the support extending radially inward from and along the interior surface. The claim goes on to recite that the support comprises opening means to receive the threaded end connector, whereby when the end connector is received within the opening means, it is configured to be threadably engaged with said at least one thread to immovably secure the handle along the longitudinal axis of the broom head. Claim 5 contains similar language directed to the system for securing an elongated handle with a threaded end connector to a broom head.

The revisions to claim 1 and 5 now overcome Strahs as prior art. Strahs does show a spring clip for a broom; however, the clip disclosed in Strahs is merely a resilient wire with loop 40, into which the end of a handle is inserted. Strahs does not show a handle end connector support which has a front surface of a given thickness and an interior surface of a given length extending from surface, the length of the interior surface being greater than the thickness of the front surface. The clip in Strahs does not disclose the use of any threads and, consequently, no

threads extending radially inward from and along the interior surface of a support. In fact, the Strahs clip does not employ any thread to threadably engage the handle.

The broom clip of the subject invention is a unitary, three dimensional structure, not the wire arrangement shown in Strahs. The subject clip will actually provide a threaded connection between the threaded end connector of the handle and, thus a more secure attachment between these components. The clip is much more substantial than Strahs' clip and, so will have substantially increased durability and, as a result, longer useful life.

The revisions to dependent claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 more particularly describe and distinctly claim the cradle and ring aspects of the clip of the subject invention.

Pages 4 and 5 of the original specification have been amended and substitute drawings for FIGS. 1 and 5 are enclosed in order to provide support for the added language of the claims. These additions merely represent descriptions of structures disclosed in the originally filed application and, as a result, do not represent the addition of any new matter.

Applicant greatly acknowledges and thanks the examiner for courtesies extended in a telephone interview conducted on August 16, 2006. At that time, there was a discussion between the structural differences between the clip of the subject invention and Strahs, those differences being described above. Importantly, with the additional language which describes the differences in dimension between the front surface of the clip's support and the interior surface and the description of its thread located within the support, extending radially inward from and along the interior surface, the claim contains language which clearly distinguishes the invention from Strahs.

During the above noted telephone interview, the additions proposed herein to the specification and the substitute drawings were also discussed.

It is thus submitted that, by this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 5 are allowable and so then are their dependent claims 2-4 and 6-12. The application is thus in condition for allowance.

If the examiner, upon review of the herein Amendment, believes additional changes may be appropriate to advance the prosecution of this application, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

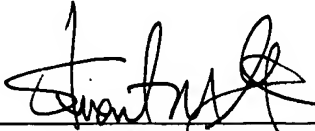
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CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I certify that the Amendment After First Office Action was sent to Robert J. Sandy, Examiner, Art Unit 3677, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, via Express Mail # EV 836584566 US on August 24, 2006.



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SUBSTITUTE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the attached drawings showing FIG. 1 and FIG. 5, for the original drawings of these FIGS.